GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:59
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
VISIT OF IRANIAN DIGNITARY
PATY RIPPLE KYNDIAH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Head of the National Security Council of Iran had visited India recently and held talks with Indian leaders;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof ;

(c) whether any agreement had been signed on that occasion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) - (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in Parts (a) - (d) of the answer to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 59 To be answered on 17.7.2002

(a) Yes, Sir. The Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, H.E. Mr. Hasan Roohani visited India from June 24-28 2002. Mr. Roohani held talks with Principal Secretary to Prime Minister and National Security Adviser and called on Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and Raksha Mantri.

(b) During the discussions, the two sides reviewed the current state of bilateral relations, including economic and commercial relations, issues related to investment and trade as well as political issues. Security related matters were also discussed in the context of the international and regional security environment. The two sides agreed to institutionalize periodic consultations between the National Security Councils of the two countries on topical issues. The two sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and agreed to cooperate for combating international terrorism in the region. They also emphasised the need for early finalisation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. On Afghanistan, the sides agreed to continue their bilateral cooperation and stressed the need for accelerating the rehabilitation and reconstruction process in Afghanistan. They reiterated the importance of Afghan people deciding their future free from external interference. India and Iran supported cooperative approaches to deal with the challenges posed to their common security environment and to international peace and security. They stressed the importance of their cooperation in the context of security and stability in Asia. The two sides also expressed their principled support for the Palestinian cause and the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.